

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 COLOMB 01170 311134Z
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
DODE-00 /022 W

-----010645Z 090017 /11

R 311036Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO CINCPAC
INFO CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA IH
COMIDEASTFOR
SECSTATE WASHDC 7039

S E C R E T COLOMBO 1170

CINCPAC FOR J13/J3

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, CE

SUBJ: PROPOSED SHIP VISIT TO COLOMBO

REF: A. CINCPAC 260049Z MAR 77 (NOTAL); B. 76 COLOMBO 567
(DTG 121115Z FEB 76)

1. REFTTEL A PROPOSES A SHIP VISIT TO COLOMBO JULY 6-9, 1977.
REFTTEL B IS MOST RECENT COMPREHENSIVE MESSAGE FROM EMBASSY
SETTING FORTH OUR VIEWS CONCERNING TIMING OF SHIP VISITS DURING
THE BALANCE OF 1976/77, WHICH PROPOSED AVOIDING SHIP VISITS
DURING PERIODS PRECEDING AUGUST 1976 NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE
AND DURING SRI LANKAN NATIONAL ELECTIONS, THEN FORESEEN FOR
EARLY 1977.

2. THE NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY, NOW IN A STATE OF PROROGATION,
ENDS ITS CONSTITUTIONAL LIFE ON MAY 22, AND TIMING OF ENSUING
ELECTIONS MUST BE SUCH THAT NEXT NEWLY-ELECTED ASSEMBLY HOLDS
ITS FIRST MEETING BY SEPTEMBER 22. BEST CURRENT GUESS IS FOR
ELECTIONS IN AUGUST, WITH CAMPAIGN REACHING PEAK ACTIVITY IN

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JULY/AUGUST PERIOD (IN FACT, PRE-ELECTORAL MANEUVERING IS WELL
UNDER WAY NOW).

3. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, EMBASSY MUST REGRETFULLY CONCLUDE THAT
JULY 6-9 TIME FRAME IS NOT SUITABLE FOR A SHIP VISIT TO
COLOMBO. AMERICAN NAVAL PRESENCE WOULD PROBABLY BE SEIZED UPON
BY BEVY OF SMALL STRUGGLING LEFTIST PARTIES, INCLUDING THE

LOCAL COMMUNIST AND TROTSKYITE PARTIES, AS MEANS OF EMBARRASSING BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTIES, ESPECIALLY AT A TIME WHEN MUCH LOCAL ATTENTION HAS BEEN DRAWN TO PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON POSSIBLE DEMILITARIZATION OF INDIAN OCEAN.

4. WHILE RECOMMENDING AGAINST JULY VISIT, EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE ITS SUGGESTION THAT WE REVERT TO PRIOR POLICY ON VISIT FREQUENCY FOLLOWING THE ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF NEXT GOVERNMENT.

5. AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO A COLOMBO VISIT, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT ONE OF THE SHIPS MAKE A TWO-DAY VISIT TO MALE, REPUBLIC OF THE MALDIVES, DURING THE SAME TIME FRAME. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT MALE MAY NOT BE AS HIGHLY COVETED A LEAVE PORT AS COLOMBO, US NAVAL UNITS HAVE VISITED THERE IN THE PAST AND THE PROPOSED DATES MIGHT PERMIT A DELAYED JULY 4TH/NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION IN THE MALDIVES, PERHAPS WITH POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION BY THE AMBASSADOR OR OTHER SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THIS EMBASSY.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL SHIPS, MILITARY VISITS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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